IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete Claims 1-~~10~~ 11, as originally filed in International Application No. PCT/NO99/00266, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited in those claims.

Please add Claims ~~20-36~~ 12-28 as follows:

--~~20~~ 12. A composition comprising a producer cell capable of expressing a molecule that is an inhibitor of the growth of a CNS tumor, the cell being encapsulated in a matrix that comprises an immunoisolating alginate having a G content of above 15%, wherein the molecule is:

(a) a molecule that is capable of interacting with tumor/host communication pathways; or

(b) a monoclonal antibody capable of interacting directly with an antigen of the CNS tumor selected from the group consisting of platelet derived growth factor receptors AA and BB, acidic and basic fibroblast growth factor receptors, transforming growth factor receptors alpha and beta, vascular endothelial growth factor receptors, tyrosine kinase receptors with immunoglobulin-like and EGF-like domains, hepatocyte growth factor, CD-44, CDR/cyclin complexes, glycolipids on the cell

surface, glycoproteins, and proteins derived from the expression of oncogenes.

21. The composition of claim 20, wherein the molecule that is capable of interacting with tumor/host communication pathways is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a molecule that is capable of affecting tumor neovascularization;

(ii) a molecule that is capable of interfering with the relationship between cells of the CNS tumor and their extracellular matrix; and

(iii) a molecule that is capable of affecting the immune system.

22. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the alginate has a G content of above 50%.

23. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the alginate has a G content of 60%-80%.

24. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the alginate has a G content of 80%-100%.

25. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the cell's expression of the molecule is capable of being switched on and off by an external pharmacological agent.

26. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the producer cell is encapsulated in a bead or microbead.

27. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the CNS tumor is a brain tumor.

28. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the alginate is substantially free of endotoxin.

29. The composition according to claim 26, wherein the alginate concentration within the bead or microbead increases from the center of the bead or the microbead to the outer rim.

30. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the molecule is selected from the group consisting of a protein, a peptide, and a polysaccharide that is capable of affecting tumor neovascularization.

31. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the molecule is a monoclonal antibody capable of interacting directly with an antigen of the CNS tumor selected from the group consisting of platelet derived growth factor receptors AA and BB, acidic and basic fibroblast growth factor receptors, transforming growth factor receptors alpha and beta, vascular endothelial growth factor receptors, tyrosine kinase receptors with immunoglobulin-like and EGF-like domains, hepatocyte growth factor, CD-44, CDR/cyclin complexes, glycolipids on the cell surface, glycoproteins, and proteins derived from the expression of oncogenes.

32. A method of producing the composition according to claim 20, comprising the step of encapsulating a producer cell in a one-step procedure.

33. A method of producing the composition according to claim 20, comprising the step of adding, in a drop-wise manner, an alginate solution containing at least one viable cell to a calcium-containing solution.

34. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (a) the composition according to claim 20 and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

35. A method of treating a mammalian patient afflicted with a CNS tumor comprising the step of administering to the patient an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34.

36. The method of treatment according to claim 35, wherein the CNS tumor is a brain tumor.--.

REMARKS

Applicant requests early examination on the merits and favorable consideration of this application.

Claims 20-36 are presently pending in this application, with claim 20 being independent. Claims 1-19 as originally filed in the parent PCT application (i.e., International Application No. PCT/NO99/00266 (or International Publication No. WO 00/12066)) have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited in those claims.